



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Lee Holloway

Chairman of the Board

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REVISED TAX REVENUE CAN SOFTEN BUDGET BLOW IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway is asking members of the State Legislature to consider reversing cuts to key County services, including Family Care and Mass Transit, in light of an increase in expected tax receipts for 2011-2013. An analysis from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau estimates tax receipts through 2013 will be \$636 million higher than earlier estimates. Chairman Holloway's request includes reversing transit cuts; lifting the FamilyCare enrollment cap; reconsidering an earlier vote on local child support assistance; and funding the gap between potential budget adjustment savings and biennial budget cuts.

- **Mass Transit**

Chairman Holloway is urging the Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance who represents Milwaukee County, Senator Alberta Darling, to take this opportunity to reverse the 10% (\$7 million) cut that would kill the economic thrust of Milwaukee County. This cut in State aid could translate into an 8% service reduction or 29% fare increase.

- **FamilyCare enrollment cap**

The Legislature is encouraged to use these revenues to keep the promise made to Milwaukee County's most vulnerable residents: elderly and persons with disabilities. Under the enrollment cap, elderly would be put on a waiting list for services for the first time in more than a decade. The enrollment cap would hamper Milwaukee County's ability to remove the 2,000 people with disabilities from the waiting list.

- **Child Support**

An estimated \$3.6 million reduction in child support funding for 2012 is projected to result in a loss of 38 staff people and a diminished ability to collect assistance.

- **State Budget funding gap for Milwaukee County**

Taking into account the potential savings from employee concessions and the proposed state aid reductions in the biennial budget, Milwaukee County faces an estimated \$18.4 million deficit in 2012 if the Legislature doesn't restore any of the recommended cuts. This gap must be filled.

"Instead of cutting funding, I am asking the State to invest in existing programs like mass transit so we can better connect businesses with employees, lift the Family Care enrollment cap, and restore cuts made to child support," Chairman Holloway said. "We have no local funding options other than the property tax. I'm asking the State to do anything it can to narrow the funding gap for Milwaukee County and restore job access via the transit system."